



State of Connecticut
Police Officer Standards and Training Council
Connecticut Police Academy



Appropriations Committee
Monday, February 9, 2009

To: Senator Toni Nathaniel Harp, Co-Chairperson
Rep. John C. Geragosian, Co-Chairman
All Members of the Appropriation Committee

From: Thomas E. Flaherty
Executive Director
Police Officer Standards and Training Council

Date: February 9, 2009

Subject: Appropriations Committee Agency Budget Presentations

On behalf of the Chairman of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, Chief Anthony J. Salvatore, Sr. of the Cromwell Police Department and all the members of our Council, I thank you for the opportunity to appear before your Committee and speak about the proposed 2010 – 2011 Connecticut state budget.

We have reviewed the Governor's budget recommendations for 2010/2011 and we appreciate the difficult tasks ahead and the decisions that must be made.

The single significant issue that we as an Agency face is the recommended elimination of training for one recruit class each year. We can accommodate this proposal, but the impact will be that approximately fifty fewer municipal police officers will receive basic training each year. This would reduce our capacity to train new officers by twenty per cent.

The Police Officer Standards and Training Council is charged with establishing and providing a recruit training curriculum in a residential Academy at the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden. As such, we provide basic recruit training to approximately 250 municipal police recruits, State Protective Service recruits and college and university police recruits. At any given time, we have two classes of 50 recruits each in residence. Their curriculum is 822 hours over a 22 week program.

We also provide Emergency Vehicle Operation Training and Driver Training to all of the recruits who attend not only our Academy but the seven satellite academies throughout the state.

We certify police officers on a three-year cycle, certify police instructors, audit municipal agencies to insure compliance with state statutes and regulations and we accredit police departments within the state.

We would like to bring to your attention the proposed transfer of equipment funds for each of the coming two fiscal years into the Capital Equipment Purchase Fund. In 2010, the Agency



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proposed to purchase five replacement driver training vehicles and replace our Firearms Training System.

In 2011, the Agency proposed to purchase five additional replacement driver training vehicles.

We will be precluded from making those purchases as part of our normal business with the funding being transferred to the Capital Equipment Purchase Fund.

One other item I wish to advise the Committee of is the proposed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which Congress has introduced. According to the International Association of Chiefs of Police, included in the House version of during this legislation is \$4 billion to support state, local and tribal law enforcement. Three billion dollars has been proposed for the Edward R. Byrne Justice Assistance (Byrne-JAG) grant program and one billion dollars for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) hiring grants. If in fact this legislation is enacted, there will be an impact on this Agency. As municipal agencies avail themselves of this funding, we would expect to feel an increased demand to provide recruit training to additional officers who may be hired with these federal grants. The elimination of one recruit class per year over the next two years would result in a longer waiting list for training seats in the Academy and a delay in the ability of municipalities to promptly hire recruits to fill existing vacancies or additional positions funded by the grants.

I thank you for your interest and past support and I would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have at this time.